

and their one hundredth year serving the greater Kansas City metropolitan area. Since their opening, Dixon's has served as a beloved pillar of the Kansas City and Independence communities, and it brings me pride to have such an institution serving the Fifth Congressional District of Missouri.

As one of the oldest family owned businesses in the city, Dixon's Famous Chili originally began as a street vendor in downtown Kansas City, Missouri. Due to the success of the street cart, the Dixon family opened their first parlor at 15th and Olive in 1919. In the early days, the founder, Vergne Dixon, used his entrepreneurial power to provide jobs for the community. He hired only men who were down on their luck to work at his parlor, giving many a much-needed opportunity to better themselves and support their families. Dixon aspired to give back to his city and embodied a spirit of public service that should inspire us all.

In the 1940s, Dixon's Chili Parlor acquired a new and special meaning for the community as it became a frequent stop for President Harry Truman and became what he called one of his favorite restaurants in America. President Truman said he loved to eat there as the food reminded him of the days when he had been serving in World War I. When President Truman visited Dixon's for his favorite dish of chili on tamales, usually accompanied by several Secret Service Agents, the notoriety of the event landed Dixon's Chili Parlor in LIFE magazine. Thus, Dixon's came to be known as Dixon's Famous Chili.

Dixon's Famous Chili continues today, as the legacy has been kept alive by Vergne Dixon's nephew Leonard Totta, his daughter Terri Totta Smith, and will continue with his grandson Stephan Steffes. As the restaurant's business expanded, it grew to house numerous locations across the Kansas City metro area and beyond. However, the main restaurant in Independence, which President Truman frequented, remains a cherished landmark in the area. Long time guests share stories of gravitating back to Dixon's for a warm, familial atmosphere. Today, visitors to Missouri are drawn to the authentic ambience at Dixon's, as well as the special "Kansas City style chili" served the same way it was one hundred years ago, as a distinct way to experience our local history.

Madam Speaker, please join me and all of Missouri's Fifth Congressional District in honoring this legacy as Vergne Dixon's family celebrates one hundred years of remarkable and noteworthy service in the Kansas City metropolitan area. I welcome my colleagues to join me and the constituents of Missouri's Fifth Congressional District in congratulations and recognition of such an inspiration. Together, we look to better serve those around us in the same spirit as Mr. Dixon originally did and in the same way his family continues to serve us today.

HONORING UNITED STATES ARMY  
SERGEANT FIRST CLASS RO-  
LAND HAYES

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 6, 2019*

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, in advance of Purple Heart Day 2019, we

are taking the time to honor those who have earned the Purple Heart for sacrifices in service to this Country. Today, we recognize Roland Hayes, who received not one or two, but three Purple Hearts while serving in the Vietnam War.

As a young man, Roland Hayes admired the work of the military. He first learned about radio waves as a student at Lackawanna High School and was fascinated by the idea of war-time communication. He was also inspired by the bravery and skill of the Army's 101st Airborne Division, a specialized infantry division trained in air assault operations and the first troops that dropped into action during World War Two's Invasion of Normandy. In 1966, Hayes, just 18 years old, answered the internal tug to serve, voluntarily enlisted in the United States Army, and was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division known as the "Screaming Eagles." The 101st Airborne Division fought in 45 different operations over almost 7 years and was the last Army division to leave Vietnam. During this time, the 101st made the important transition from utilizing planes and parachutes to landing helicopters.

Hayes quickly experienced the same risky operations that inspired his military career, plunging him and his unit into the depths of enemy territory. He was consistently part of the first landing unit, an incredibly dangerous position reserved for a group of highly-skilled soldiers. These men constantly faced the possibility of death or injury given the uncertain nature of their job. His division was the Army's most highly decorated airborne unit and Captain Paul Bucha from his battalion was awarded with the prestigious Medal of Honor for his service in the Vietnam War.

Hayes' tour in Vietnam had an action-packed start. He arrived right before the Tet Offensive, a major attack by the North Vietnamese Army and Viet Cong on five cities in South Vietnam. The coordinated attack took place at the end of January, 1968 during the Tet, a Vietnamese New Year celebration that was traditionally a time of decreased fighting. The Offensive was a huge surprise to the U.S. military and South Vietnamese troops. During the Viet Cong attack on the U.S. Embassy in Saigon, the 101st Airborne made up the assault force of paratroopers that landed on the roof of the embassy and successfully removed the Viet Cong from the premises. While this battle was a technical victory for the United States, the Viet Cong succeeded in inflicting psychological damage on the American people and military alike. The public had believed that the Vietnam War would be an easy victory, but the attack on the embassy foreshadowed a military endeavor that was longer and more complicated than anyone could have predicted.

On March 14th, 1968, Sgt. Hayes was injured in action for the first time. While working as an assistant machine gunner, a bullet ricocheted off the barrel of a machine gun and went completely through his right leg. During his hospital stay after the injury, he insisted on receiving various combat reports from his unit to stay up-to-date on the progress of the war. He recalls feeling an incredible guilt for being away from his unit when they needed him most. Hayes told the doctor that if he did not clear him to return to combat, he would go AWOL in order to go back to his men. After just four weeks of recovery, he returned to the rough terrain of the Vietnamese jungle with a partially healed leg, ready to continue fighting.

In August of the same year, Sergeant First Class Hayes was shot a second time, now in his left leg. His battalion had landed directly in an enemy-controlled territory. Hayes 'pulled point,' or stood at the front of the formation, despite his high rank and the dangerous nature of the position, because he was well-versed in recognizing traps and other signs of enemy presence. It was then that a bullet from an enemy machine gun hit him, slicing away a large piece of his left leg. Even with his own injury, Hayes helped to save another wounded soldier before returning to combat the same day.

One month later, though his platoon believed that they had successfully taken over a key North Vietnamese Army position, enemy troops unexpectedly returned. Hayes stood up to fire when a grenade landed directly next to him. He recalls experiencing this moment in slow motion: the grenade sluggishly rolling down a slope away from him before it mercilessly imploded. A piece of it hit him in the face, knocking him over. Fueled by pain and rage, Hayes continued to fight only minutes after his injury. The scar remains a visible reminder of that moment.

Like other African American veterans who served, Sergeant First Class Hayes courageously fought two battles: the war overseas and the fight at home for equal rights. Hayes comes from a long line of military trailblazers. His father, aunt, and uncle all served during WWII, defending our democracy while facing unequal treatment both in segregated military units and at home. Their participation in the military during World War II helped plant the seeds for the American Civil Rights Movement. Another uncle, Sergeant Donald Rolls, lost his life in the Korean War. Through the Korean War, segregated African-American units served in every war waged by the United States, performing in both combat and support capacities. The Vietnam War, which took place at the height of the domestic Civil Rights Movement, marked the first integrated U.S. military. However, SFC Hayes was not free from racial discrimination during his military career. It was the first time that soldiers of all races had worked together so closely, and he recalls the rough integration process of his battalion as well as the blatant discrimination he experienced when he left his southern training base. In 1967, he was deployed to work as a cook on the military base in Vietnam. But his stint as a cook only lasted three short weeks. After a racially-charged argument with a highly-ranked officer, Hayes was ordered to the front line of combat. He believes that he was given this difficult and dangerous assignment as a punishment for perceived insubordination. Notwithstanding the unforeseen change in assignment, Hayes entered his company in Vietnam as a cook and left as a Sergeant. Despite early racial tensions, animosity quickly drifted away as battles with the enemy brought the men together. Hayes' unit soon realized that, with death and defeat on the line, color and race meant nothing. Most importantly, in order to leave together, the men needed to fight together. In Hayes' words, "the battlefield knows no colors." This mentality created a brotherly bond amongst Vietnam War soldiers which had yet to be seen in the U.S. The men's selfless service and sacrifice allowed them to abandon the social norms of the time and to recognize one another as individuals.

Following his honorable discharge in 1968, Sergeant First Class Hayes worked as a citizen soldier in the Reserve and National Guard branches of the Army. He served as a Human Relations Instructor in the Air Force Reserves from 1975 to 1977 and as a drill instructor in the United States Army from 1988 to 1998. After his long tenure of service to our country, Hayes earned his GED and a Bachelor of Science degree from Medaille College. He worked as an aircraft mechanic and as a correctional officer at the Erie County Detention Center. He now resides in Cheektowaga with his wife of 25 years and has nine children and fourteen grandchildren, some of whom have continued his family's legacy of military service. Sergeant Hayes remains active in local and national veteran communities, including designing an original military jewelry line, serving as a greeter at a veteran clinic in Batavia, and working as a docent right here at the Buffalo and Erie County Naval & Military Park. We recently met Roland at a Buffalo Naval Park event and were inspired by his service and story.

Many Vietnam Veterans returned home with little fanfare, including Roland Hayes, who has never received the recognition fitting of a soldier who served so valiantly and sacrificed so much. It has been our honor to share his story and pay tribute to his service, on behalf of a grateful nation. His story is one of resilience, breaking barriers, and beating the odds.

I ask all members to join me in remembering all the great sacrifices made by those who serve.

#### IN HONOR OF THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE CRAWFORD PATH

#### HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 6, 2019*

Mr. PAPPAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the bicentennial of the Crawford Path, the oldest continuously maintained hiking trail in the United States. For two centuries, the Crawford Path has opened New Hampshire's White Mountains to adventure-seekers and nature lovers of all backgrounds and abilities.

Originally built in 1819 by Ethan Allen Crawford and his father, Abel, the Crawford Path is one of America's most popular recreational trails. Following a mountainous ridgeline across miles of open alpine environment, the trail affords impressive views of the peaks and valleys of the White Mountains. The trail's convergence with the famed Appalachian Trail and its conclusion at the summit of Mt. Washington, the tallest peak in the Northeastern U.S., make it an attraction for experienced and recreational hikers alike. While the trail's popularity affords many visitors the chance to enjoy the natural beauty of the Granite State, its frequent use has unfortunately caused significant degradation of the beloved trail. Maintaining such a well-trodden path over such a long time is no small task. I am proud of the White Mountain Region's local legacy of over 100 years of active trail maintenance, with critical leadership from stakeholders such as the U.S. Forest Service and the Appalachian Mountain Club.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I want to

commemorate the Crawford Path's bicentennial and thank all those who have maintained it for their service to our community. I thank them for all that they do to make the Granite State such a wonderful place, to work, live, and play. Let us celebrate this exciting anniversary by committing ourselves to ensuring that Crawford Path remains a jewel of the White Mountains for another 200 years.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF CARL EUGENE PORTER, SR.

#### HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 6, 2019*

Mr. RICHMOND. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Carl Eugene Porter, Sr. of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. An Army veteran and hall of fame athletic coach, he passed away on the evening of Wednesday, July 24, 2019 at the age of 88. He was well known to many as "Coach Porter".

One of four children, Coach Porter was born on February 10, 1931 in Columbia, Missouri before moving to Baton Rouge to attend Southern University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, where he earned his bachelor's degree in Physical Education. After graduating, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army and served four years. He married his college sweetheart, Ivory Hawkins, on December 30, 1954.

After his service in the Army, Coach Porter began a career in education. His career began at Scotlandville Junior High School, where he led the Athletic Department to many championships over a nineteen-year period. In 1976, Coach Porter transitioned to Southern University Laboratory School as the Athletic Director where the Fighting Kittens earned many State Championships during his twelve-year tenure. With a record of 129–25 under his watch, many of his players went on to have successful collegiate and professional sports careers. Coach Porter was also well known for placing an emphasis of academics for the athletes under his tutelage.

Coach Porter's thirty-one-year coaching career led him to be inducted in the Louisiana High School Sports Hall of Fame in 1999. He also remained an active community and civic leader through his contributions to the NAACP, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated, Kiwanis, the Fisherman's Club, and the Anna T. Jordan Recreation Center.

Coach Porter was widely known for his love of family, friends, church, music, and humanity, and many regarded him as a local icon. As a mentor, advocate, leader, and friend, Coach Porter left an indelible impact on all those whose lives he touched. His legacy of dedication and service to the Scotlandville community will be remembered now and many years to come. Coach Porter is survived by his wife, Ivory Hawkins Porter, his children, Carl, Jr., Tracy, Rudy, Rodney, and Lonzella, as well as his seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I celebrate the life and legacy of Carl Eugene Porter, Sr.

#### PERSECUTION OF FALUN GONG PRACTITIONERS IN CHINA

#### HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 6, 2019*

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, twenty years ago, in July of 1999, it was widely reported that the Chinese government began the persecution of Falun Gong practitioners. Reports of the Chinese government's human rights abuses against this group have continued during the last two decades.

Human rights, including freedom of expression and freedom of religion, should be universal. Members of Congress must work to promote tolerance and basic human freedoms worldwide.

#### RECOGNIZING JOSEPH ALEXANDER

#### HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, August 6, 2019*

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize United States Marine Corps Private First Class (PFC) Joseph Alexander on the occasion of his receiving the Congressional Gold Medal issued to the Montford Point Marines. The approximately 20,000 Montford Point Marines were the first African Americans to enlist in the United States Marine Corps after an executive order issued by President Franklin Roosevelt in June 1941 took the first steps to end racial discrimination in employment with federal government agencies.

Originally from New Orleans, Louisiana, Joseph's personal service began when he was just 19 years old in June 1943. He went through boot camp at Montford Point, North Carolina, as the nearby Camp Lejeune was off-limits if you were not being escorted by a white Marine. When his training was complete, Joseph shipped out to fight in the Pacific theater where he participated in the effort to push Japanese forces out of the Marshall Islands.

Like many veterans, Joseph chose not to speak much about his experience during the war. He returned home, got married, raised five children, and settled in Hayward in 1972. Only recently, in an effort to get him connected with benefits through the Veterans Administration, did the family find documentation that connected Joseph to the Montford Point Marines.

Our community has rallied together to honor Joseph, who will be 95 years old in September. He recently received his own copy of the Congressional Gold Medal from the National Montford Point Marine Association at a ceremony hosted by American Legion Hayward Post 870 and American Veterans Post 911 at the Hayward Veterans Memorial Building.

Joseph, thank you for your service. Not only for your bravery in war, but also for your contribution to breaking down the barriers that prevented all people from fighting for our country and the freedom of its people.